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18 March 1964

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission SO14A,  
Flown 11 March 1964; Mission SO24A, Flown  
12 March 1964; and Mission SO34A, Flown  
14 March 1964

1. Beginning with this memorandum and for as long as CIA sponsored reconnaissance overflights are flown on an almost daily basis, preliminary evaluation will be accomplished weekly. Should any significant items of immediate intelligence value be reported on any one particular mission, a separate memorandum will be published. Also, as soon as further distribution procedures are worked out with DIA, we will begin preliminary evaluations of missions flown by the Strategic Air Command over Southeast Asia.

2. Coverage of Laos on these three missions included twenty-seven airfields. Of these, sixteen belonged to FAR forces, five and possibly a sixth were in areas of Pathet Lao control, one was a Khammouane Neutralist field, one was a Kong Le Neutralist field, and three were abandoned. The probable Pathet Lao field, at Hong Sa, is in a no man's land area.

3. Ten military installations were also covered in Laos. Of these, six belonged to the FAR, three were Pathet Lao camps and one was an independent Neutralist installation. The three installations belonging to the Pathet Lao were at Muong Sing (36 buildings in four fenced areas), Nam Tha (a walled fort with four guard towers and 7 buildings), and at Muong Kassy (three areas with a total of 15 buildings, four vehicles and three occupied air warning positions).

4. Road coverage in Laos was confined to the extreme northwestern portion of the country and turned up no evidence of construction or vehicular traffic. One bridge was seen at Meng Peng.

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5. Coverage of North Vietnam was rather limited on these missions. However, one airfield at Chu, 43 miles northeast of Hanoi was photographed.

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6. Two supply depots, one on Route 7 and the other on Route 8 were photographed. The former is another addition to the very extensive Vinh Son complex on Route 7 previously reported. Two barracks areas were also seen.

7. Selected portions of Route 1, Route 7 and Route 8 were photographed. There was no evidence of construction or vehicular traffic.



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